

Message Text

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PAGE 01 QUEBEC 00218 102118Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CPR-01 SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 USIA-06 EB-07 COME-00 CU-02 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 H-01 STR-04 /065 W
-----102122Z 026147 /66

P 101800Z JUN 77
FM AMCONSUL QUEBEC
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1013
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY
AMCONSUL MONTREAL
AMCONSUL TORONTO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, BEXP, CA
SUBJECT: QUEBEC'S INTEREST IN US GROWS

1. GOQ HAS ANNOUNCED RECENTLY ITS INTENTION TO OPEN A "DELEGATION" IN ATLANTA, GEORGIA. THIS NEW QUEBEC REPRESENTATION IN THE US WILL SUPPLEMENT ACTIVITIES OF EXISTING DELEGATIONS IN BOSTON, NEW YORK, LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA, DALLAS, LOS ANGELES AND CHICAGO. THE PURPOSE OF THE NEW DELEGATION IS TO PROVIDE QUEBEC GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATION IN AN AREA OF "GROWING ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE." THE ATLANTA DELEGATION WILL HAVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ENCOURAGING TRADE, INVESTMENT, TOURISM AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE IN THE REGION SOUTH OF WASHINGTON, D.C. AND EAST OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER.

2. A FURTHER MOVE TO BOLSTER THE QUALITY OF QUEBEC REPRESENTATION IN THE UNITED STATES IS THE ASSIGNMENT OF MARCEL BERGERON AS DELEGATE GENERAL IN NEW YORK. MR. BERGERON IS ONE OF GOQ'S SENIOR SPECIALISTS IN TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL AFFAIRS. AT PRESENT, HE OCCUPIES THE POST OF DEPUTY UNDERMINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY. PREVIOUSLY, HE SERVED FOR FOUR YEARS AS QUEBEC'S DELEGATE IN MILAN, ITALY.

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EM FOR THE FUTURE, I WAS INFORMED PRIVATELY BY MINISTER OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS, CLAUDE MORIN, THAT GOQ IS CONSIDERING OPENING AN OFFICE IN WASHINGTON "DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY" TO THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF TOURISM. MORIN ASSURED ME THAT PREMISES WOULD BE IN A "CLASSIC STORE

FRONT" IN DOWNTOWN WASHINGTON SIMILAR TO OTHER TOURIST OFFICES IN THAT CITY.

4. THE GROWING NUMBER OF PUBLIC APPEARANCES BEING MADE IN US BY QUEBEC MINISTERS IS A FURTHER INDICATION OF IMPORTANCE QUEBEC PLACES ON ITS RELATIONS WITH U.S. DURING PAST MONTH ALONE CLAUDE MORIN HAS SPOKEN IN BOSTON AND WORCHESTER, MASS. AND IS PLANNING A WEST COAST TOUR LATER IN YEAR WITH SPEECHES IN SAN FRANCISCO AND LOS ANGELES BEFORE WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS "FOREIGN AFFAIRS COUNCILS." OTHER MEMBERS OF THE CABINET ALSO MAKE FREQUENT VISITS TO U.S., OFTEN WITHOUT ANY LOCAL NOTICE BEING GIVEN TO THEIR ACTIVITIES.

5. THIS PATTERN OF CLOSE RELATIONS WITH U.S. IS LIKELY TO CONTINUE AND MAY INTENSIFY AS GOQ ATTEMPTS GAIN GREATER UNDERSTANDING FOR ITS POINT OF VIEW AMONG CITIZENS OF ITS NEAREST NEIGHBOR AND AS ITS HIGH DEGREE OF ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE ON U.S. ENCOURAGES AN AGGRESSIVE POLICY OF PROMOTION OF TRADE, INVESTMENT AND TOURISM.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PROVINCE, FOREIGN RELATIONS, ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICES, PERSONNEL ASSIGNMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decapton Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977QUEBEC00218
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770208-0376
Format: TEL
From: QUEBEC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770668/aaaachzv.tel
Line Count: 82
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f518667f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2194240
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: QUEBEC'S INTEREST IN US GROWS
TAGS: ETRD, BEXP, CA, US, (BERGERON, MARCEL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f518667f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009